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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

The Years 1946 and 1947.

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

St. Helens:

WOOD, WESTWORTH & CO., LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS,
HARDSHAW STREET.



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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report on the health of St. Helens for the years 1946 and 1947.

As in the case of the previous Report, it has again been found more convenient on this occasion to present one Report covering both these years. It is hoped, however, to return to Annual Reports for future years.

The following statement shows some of the principal statistical rates during the past five years.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Birth rate per 1,000 of civilian population	19.8	20.5	20.3	22.2	25.2
Death rate per 1,000 of civilian population	13.0	11.3	11.3	11.0	12.7
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	72.5	57.5	60.1	59.9	69.8
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total births	3.40	3.33	3.36	0.83	1.81
Tuberculosis death rate per 10,000 of civilian population	7.6	6.1	7.1	5.0	7.3

The birth rates continued to show an increase over the preceding years, and the rate for 1947 was the highest recorded since 1922.

The death rate of 11.0 per 1,000 of the population for 1946 was the second lowest ever recorded for the Borough.

At 59.9 per 1,000 live births, the Infant Mortality rate for 1946 compared well with the low figures recorded in the preceding two years, but the rate of 69.8 for 1947 showed an increase attributable partly to increases in deaths due to pneumonia and diarrhoea.

In comparison with previous years the maternal mortality rates for both years were very satisfactory, the rate for 1946 being the lowest ever recorded in St. Helens.

The incidence of the more common infectious diseases during both years showed no significant changes except that in 1946 cases of whooping cough of an uncomplicated nature were higher than for the previous two years, and during 1947 the incidence of measles developed to epidemic proportions. In the second half of 1947 there was a small but sharp outbreak of acute poliomyelitis.

There was a drop in 1946 in the mortality rates for Tuberculosis, but there was an increase in 1947 when the rate was 7.3 per 10,000 of the population. The increased incidence of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis during both years is due, in part, to the greater number of service cases invalided from the Forces at the end of the war. Welfare and re-habilitation work among tuberculosis patients was actively maintained during both years.

The number of cases of male venereal diseases, particularly gonorrhoea, during both years showed a marked increase, but there was a much lessened incidence in the cases of female venereal diseases. It is satisfactory to note, however, that the number of cases who defaulted in treatment was in both years very low, and this can be attributed in great measure to the striking and efficient results achieved by penicillin treatment.

For the successful carrying on of the work of the Department I am indebted to the ever willing and cheerful assistance of every member of the staff. I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

I.—GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

	1946	1947
Area (Acres)	7,950	7,950
Estimated Civilian Population mid-year	104,740	105,790
Rateable Value	£496,536	£505,830
Product of a penny rate	£1,923	£1,960

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1946 :

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births :—Legitimate	1,141	1,053	2,194
Illegitimate	63	65	128
Totals	1,204	1,118	2,322

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population 22.2

Still Births :—M. 41, F. 49 ; Total : 90.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 37.3

Deaths :—M. 662, F. 486 ; Total : 1,148.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population 11.0

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
From sepsis	—	—
From other maternal causes	2	0.83
Totals	2	0.83

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	82	44	126
Illegitimate	8	5	13
Totals	90	49	139

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	59.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	57.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	101.6

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	26
„ Tuberculosis	52

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1947 :

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births :—Legitimate	1,335	1,224	2,559
Illegitimate	51	53	104
Totals	1,386	1,277	2,663

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population 25.2

Still Births :—M. 51, F. 45 ; Total 96.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 34.8

Deaths :—M. 758, F. 583 ; Total 1,341.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population 12.7

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
From sepsis	—	—
From other maternal causes	5	1.81
Totals	5	1.81

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	107	67	174
Illegitimate	5	7	12
Totals	112	74	186

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	69.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	68.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	115.4

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	10
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	44
„ Tuberculosis	77

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-year 1946 was 104,740, and for 1947, 105,790. The increase in population during 1946 and 1947 is an indication of the continuance of the upward trend towards normal which has been apparent since the end of the war. The excess of births over deaths in 1946 was 1,174, and 1,322 in 1947.

BIRTHS.—The birth rate (22.2 per thousand of the estimated population) for 1946 was the highest recorded since 1926. The birth rate of 25.2 per thousand of the population in 1947 revealed a substantial increase over even the previous year, and was the highest recorded since 1922. The rate for England and Wales for 1946 was 19.1, and for 1947 20.5.

DEATHS.—The death rate for 1946 was 11.0 per thousand of the population this being the second lowest ever recorded. The death rate for 1947 was 12.7 per thousand of the population. The rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1946 was 11.5 and for 1947 12.0, but the death rates given above for St. Helens are not strictly comparable owing to the different age and sex distribution of the population. In pre-war years it had been possible to adjust this difference by means of information received from the Registrar General, but, owing to the very considerable movement of population throughout England and Wales which has taken place during the war years, the Registrar General has not yet been able to give the necessary formula which would enable the adjustments to be made.

Causes of Death.—Figures relating to the causes of, and ages at, death are given in Table 1.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was the cause of 4.5% of all deaths that occurred during 1946, and 5.7% in 1947. The corresponding percentages in 1944 and 1945 were 5.4 and 6.4 respectively. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table 1.

Malignant Diseases.—The deaths from these diseases during the past five years were as follows :—

AGE	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	2
5—15 „	—	—	1	—	1
15—45 „	16	9	19	16	23
45—65 „	57	69	66	69	89
65 and over	60	62	55	68	79
Totals	133	140	141	153	194
Percentage of the total deaths	10.32	12.55	12.64	13.3	14.3
Death rate per 1,000 of population	1.34	1.42	1.43	1.46	1.83

There would appear to be no relationship between the incidence of malignant diseases and industrial processes in St. Helens.

There were no alterations in treatment facilities during 1946 and 1947, and no approved scheme under the Cancer Act, 1939, has yet been adopted.

Infant Mortality.—During 1946 there were 139 deaths of infants under one year of age, corresponding to an infant mortality rate of 59.9 per 1,000 births. During 1947 there were 186 deaths and the infant mortality rate was 69.8. The rate for England and Wales for 1946 was 43 and for 1947, 41.

Further reference to this subject is made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

Table 1
Causes of, and ages at, death during 1946.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0—1	1—	At Ages		45—	65—
					5—	15—		
All Causes	M F	662 486	90 49	5 8	14 10	73 53	189 108	291 258
Typhoid and parat. fevers	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Cerebro-spinal fever	M F	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Scarlet Fever	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Whooping Cough	M F	3 —	3 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Diphtheria	M F	2 —	— —	— —	2 —	— —	— —	— —
Tub. of resp. sys.	M F	31 17	— —	— —	— 2	13 14	15 1	3 —
Other forms of tuberculosis	M F	1 3	— —	1 1	— 1	— 1	— —	— —
Syphilitic diseases	M F	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
Influenza	M F	7 8	— —	— —	1 —	— 1	4 4	2 3
Measles	M F	1 1	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Ac. inf. enceph.	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Cancer of buc. cav. and Oesoph. (M.), uterus (F.)	M F	9 11	— —	— —	— —	— 2	1 7	8 2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	M F	19 7	— —	— —	— —	2 —	12 3	5 4
Cancer of breast	M F	— 11	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— 3	— 7
Cancer of all other sites	M F	65 31	— —	— —	— —	8 3	32 11	25 17
Diabetes	M F	4 6	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	2 6
Intracranial vascular lesions	M F	51 57	— —	— —	— —	— 1	13 19	38 37
Heart Disease	M F	119 109	— —	— —	— 1	12 10	42 25	65 73
Other diseases of circ. system	M F	20 19	— —	— —	— —	— 1	4 1	16 17
Bronchitis	M F	49 35	— 1	— —	— —	2 1	17 8	30 25
Pneumonia	M F	29 16	8 5	3 1	— —	2 1	8 1	8 8
Other respiratory diseases	M F	12 6	— —	— —	— —	— 1	7 4	5 1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	M F	5 3	— —	— —	— —	2 —	2 1	1 2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	M F	20 6	20 5	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —
Appendicitis	M F	2 1	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— 1	1 —
Other digestive disorders	M F	15 10	2 1	1 —	— —	1 2	8 4	3 3
Nephritis	M F	16 9	— —	— —	— —	4 1	5 2	7 6

Table 1—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0—1	1—	At Ages		45—	65—
					5—	15—		
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other maternal causes	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Prem. birth	M	28	28	—	—	—	—	—
	F	21	21	—	—	—	—	—
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	M	23	22	—	—	—	1	—
	F	14	13	—	1	—	—	—
Suicide	M	8	—	—	—	4	2	2
	F	3	—	—	—	2	1	—
Road traffic acc.	M	10	—	—	5	3	2	—
	F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other violent causes	M	22	1	—	3	6	5	7
	F	9	—	2	—	1	1	5
All other causes	M	90	5	—	2	12	8	63
	F	69	1	2	5	8	11	42
Totals		1148	139	13	24	126	297	549

Causes of, and ages at, death during 1947.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0—1	1—	At Ages		45—	65—
					5—	15—		
All Causes	M	758	112	13	8	74	204	347
	F	583	74	11	6	75	137	280
Typhoid and parat. fevers	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tub. of resp. sys.	M	46	—	—	—	20	20	6
	F	22	—	—	—	20	2	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	M	5	3	1	1	—	—	—
	F	4	1	2	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	M	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	M	21	3	—	—	2	11	5
	F	5	—	—	—	2	1	2
Measles	M	8	4	3	1	—	—	—
	F	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph.	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav. and Oesoph. (M.), uterus (F.)	M	9	—	—	—	1	2	6
	F	9	—	—	—	—	7	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	M	19	—	—	—	2	7	10
	F	11	—	—	—	2	6	3
Cancer of breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	26	—	—	—	5	14	7
Cancer of all other sites	M	72	—	1	1	9	31	30
	F	48	—	1	—	4	22	21

Table 1—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages					
			0—1	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
Diabetes	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	5	—	—	—	—	2	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	M	62	—	—	—	—	17	45
	F	60	1	—	—	3	10	46
Heart Disease	M	154	—	—	—	11	43	100
	F	138	—	—	1	12	38	87
Other diseases of circ. system	M	18	—	—	—	1	4	13
	F	15	—	—	—	—	2	13
Bronchitis	M	77	3	—	—	3	27	44
	F	34	—	—	—	1	8	25
Pneumonia	M	36	20	1	—	1	6	8
	F	25	12	1	1	2	3	6
Other respiratory diseases	M	15	—	—	—	—	8	7
	F	7	—	—	—	3	2	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	M	8	—	—	—	1	6	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	M	29	27	2	—	—	—	—
	F	15	14	1	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	M	3	—	—	—	2	1	—
	F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other digestive disorders	M	10	1	—	—	—	4	5
	F	8	—	—	—	2	4	2
Nephritis	M	10	—	—	—	4	1	5
	F	15	—	—	1	1	—	13
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other maternal causes	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
Prem. birth	M	23	23	—	—	—	—	—
	F	15	15	—	—	—	—	—
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	M	26	23	—	1	2	—	—
	F	27	25	1	—	1	—	—
Suicide	M	4	—	—	—	1	2	1
	F	3	—	—	—	1	2	—
Road traffic acc.	M	8	—	1	1	2	—	4
	F	5	—	1	1	2	—	1
Other violent causes	M	18	—	3	2	3	5	5
	F	7	—	1	—	2	—	4
All other causes	M	73	5	1	1	7	9	50
	F	69	3	1	2	6	14	43
Totals		1341	186	24	14	149	341	627

II.—METEOROLOGY.

The total rainfall for 1946 as measured at the Victoria Park Observatory, was 37.04 inches, and as recorded at the Ecclestone Hill Waterworks 36.5 inches. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 26.73 inches at Victoria Park and 27.9 inches at Ecclestone Hill.

The sunshine recorder at Victoria Park recorded 1,125 hours of sunshine in 1946 and 1,150 hours in 1947. The greatest duration of sunshine on any one day in 1946 was 14 hours on the 12th July, and in 1947, 13 hours on the 13th June. There were 168 sunless days in 1946 and 123 in 1947.

During 1946 the highest temperature in the shade was on 13th July, when it reached 83°F., and the lowest was 21.0°F., on the 20th and 21st January. The highest temperature in 1947 was 85.0°F. on 3rd June and 16th and 18th August, and the lowest 17.0°F. on 24th February.

III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General Observations.—The number of cases of infectious diseases notified each year since 1938 is shown in Table 2.

During 1946 there was a lessened incidence of cases of scarlet fever as compared with the two previous years, and this lowered trend was continued during 1947. Cases were very mild in type. Cases of diphtheria were relatively few, but the incidence of measles rose to epidemic proportions in 1947 following an abatement of its occurrence in the previous year. In contrast, the figures for the incidence of whooping cough tended to be high in 1946 and low in 1947.

During late 1947 there was a small but sharp outbreak of acute poliomyelitis corresponding to the wide-spread national occurrence of the disease. Details of this local outbreak are given later in the report.

Table 3 shows the total number of cases notified during each of the years 1946 and 1947, the total number of deaths which occurred, and the number of cases admitted to the Corporation Isolation Hospital.

Table 4 gives the age distribution of the cases notified, and Table 1 the age distribution of the deaths which occurred.

Table 2.

Notification of Infectious Diseases received during the under-mentioned years.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	577	995	221	186	146	322	661	530	426	324
Diphtheria	437	479	287	252	255	120	29	21	36	32
Measles	1776	265	3057	601	3066	269	1716	530	368	1695
Whooping Cough	500	361	403	1005	423	616	401	144	521	221
Enteric Fever	1	1	—	49	1	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	19	—	9	88	69	11	59	35	5	53
Erysipelas	53	46	34	28	28	45	34	35	26	12
Pneumonia	128	118	123	134	60	111	98	99	74	102
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	}31	32	15	13	7	11	11	13	4	9
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Ophthalmia										
Neonatorum	8	7	9	9	4	7	5	5	9	3
Poliomyelitis.....	2	4	1	4	—	1	1	2	—	12
Encephalitis										
Lethargica	—	1	1	4	1	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	5	45	25	11	10	1	1	6	6
Malaria	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	4	3	—

Table 3.

Infectious Diseases.—Total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to hospital, and the total deaths.

Year 1946

DISEASE	Notifications received	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	426	371	—
Diphtheria	36	30	2
Measles	368	8	2
Whooping Cough	521	9	3
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	5	1	—
Erysipelas	26	3	—
Pneumonia	74	2	45
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	3	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	5	1
Malaria	3	—	—

Year 1947

DISEASE	Notifications received	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	324	293	—
Diphtheria	32	32	—
Measles	1695	57	10
Whooping Cough	221	13	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	53	3	—
Erysipelas	12	1	—
Pneumonia	102	41	61
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	5	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	2	—
Poliomyelitis	12	10	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	4	1
Malaria	—	—	—

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet fever showed a persistent incidence throughout the whole of the years 1946 and 1947. The total number recorded, 426 and 324 in the respective years, showed a tendency to decrease but incidence was wide-spread throughout the Borough. The disease was very mild in type.

Table 4.

Age distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases notified.

Year 1946.

DISEASE	Notifications received	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	426	—	11	24	47	48	185	80	16	13	1	—	1
Diphtheria	36	—	1	1	2	2	19	5	—	3	—	2	1
Measles	368	26	22	20	34	46	171	32	14	1	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	521	51	61	69	87	82	165	3	—	3	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—
Erysipelas	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	14	4
Pneumonia	74	10	6	6	8	—	7	5	2	9	3	13	5
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Malaria	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—

Year 1947.

DISEASE	Notifications received.	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	324	1	7	18	34	41	137	57	15	10	2	2	—
Diphtheria	32	—	—	2	7	2	10	7	2	2	—	—	—
Measles	1695	112	194	242	264	336	524	15	3	4	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	221	29	32	28	39	27	64	1	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	53	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	11	7	26	3
Erysipelas	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	7	1
Pneumonia	102	13	11	12	9	5	14	4	2	9	4	16	3
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	12	1	—	1	3	1	4	1	1	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	—	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.—Following the record low number of cases in 1945, the two succeeding years showed a very negligible increase. During 1946, 36 cases were notified and 32 in 1947.

No deaths occurred amongst immunised children.

During both years the figures for children immunised showed an appreciable increase, as can be seen below, where the figures for preceding years are shown in contrast.

1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
4331	1348	1226	1419	2162

It is estimated that at the end of 1947, 42% of children in the Borough under 5 years of age and 76% of those aged 5—15 years had been immunised.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER.—No cases occurred during 1946 or 1947.

MEASLES.—Following a decrease in the number of cases of measles during 1946 there was a sharp rise in incidence in 1947 when a total of 1695 cases was recorded. This was the highest number of cases since 1944. Secondary chest complications in the form of broncho-pneumonia were fairly common during 1947, 10 deaths were attributed to this cause.

WHOOPING COUGH.—In direct contrast to measles the incidence of whooping cough was high in 1946 and low in 1947. The disease was uncomplicated in type.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—During 1946, 4 cases and during 1947, 9 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Nine cases were notified during 1946 and 3 cases during 1947. No cases were severe in type and in all instances recovery was uneventful.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.—During 1946 and 1947, 6 cases were notified as occurring in each year. One death occurred in each year—in 1946 from a total of 5 cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital and in 1947 from a total of 4 cases thus admitted.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.—No cases of this disease occurred in 1946, but during the last 5 months of 1947 there was a sharp local outbreak corresponding to the widespread national occurrence of the disease.

The outbreak in St. Helens was characterised by two features: all but one of the cases occurred in the age group 15 years and under and also the occurrence of the epidemic was confined in its incidence to the last 5 months of the year.

The first true case was notified on the 2nd August, 1947, and the last case on the 17th November, 1947. Out of a total of 22 cases notified only 12 cases were afterwards notified as being true cases of acute poliomyelitis. No deaths from the disease occurred in St. Helens.

The age incidence of the verified cases was as follows:—

0-5 years	5-15 years	15 years plus
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
6	5	1

The types of these cases according to the classification adopted by the Ministry of Health was as follows :—

Type.	(1)	Paralytic	(a)	Limbs and/or Trunk	Slight .....	.....	.....	5
					Moderate .....	.....	.....	3
					Severe .....	.....	.....	2
			(b)	Other	Slight .....	.....	}	Nil.
					Moderate .....	.....	
					Severe .....	.....	
(2)	Non-paralytic	(a)	With changes in C.S.F. ....	.....	.....	2		
		(b)	With clinical signs only .....	.....	.....	Nil.		

Of the 12 verified cases, 2 were diagnosed as late cases at Orthopaedic out-patient departments of local general hospitals. The remaining 10 cases were admitted in the acute stage to the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital. The results of treatment in these 10 cases were generally good. In 4 cases recovery was complete before discharge from hospital. In a further 4 cases there was slight residual paralysis in the upper limbs and these cases were discharged to the Orthopaedic Unit of the School Health Service for continued out-patient treatment. The two remaining cases showed severe trunk or lower limb paralysis and were transferred to the Royal Liverpool Childrens' Hospital, Heswall, for further in-patient treatment.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During 1946 and 1947 there was a continued occurrence of cases of dysentery in the Borough. Most of these cases were of the Sonne or Flaxner type and although alarming and acute in onset were not fatal in type. From follow-up investigations made in the homes it was obvious that for every case bacteriologically diagnosed usually by hospitalisation, there were many missed ambulant cases in the community probably acting as temporary carriers.

Cases of Erysipelas notified in 1946 and 1947 totalled 26 and 12 respectively.

BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Details of admissions and discharges to this hospital are shown in Table 5.

In addition to serving the area of St. Helens Borough this hospital now admits, by arrangement, a proportion of cases from the area of the Whiston, Huyton and Prescott Joint Hospital Board. During 1947 arrangements were also made whereby cases from the area of the Haydock Urban District Council are admitted to this hospital.

The above arrangements meant that the Isolation Hospital was admitting cases from a very wide area of the County. During 1946 there were 108 admissions from the area of Whiston, Huyton and Prescott Joint Hospitals Board, and during 1947, 86 admissions from that area, and 35 admissions from the area of the Haydock Urban District Council.

These cases are included in the gross totals for hospital admissions in Table 5

The commitments undertaken by the above agreements proved at times to be a source of difficulty owing to shortage of hospital staff. Though the accommodation of the hospital as a whole was never overtaxed, shortage of nursing staff meant that much of the bed accommodation could not be fully utilised. This shortage continued right up to the end of 1947.

Out-patient facilities are provided in the Cleansing Block for the treatment of scabies and the cleansing of verminously infested persons. During 1946, 60 cases of scabies were treated and 88 infested persons were cleansed. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 47 cases of scabies and 86 infested persons.

Table 5.

Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital. Hospital Diagnoses of cases treated during :
Year 1946

DISEASE	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1946	Admitted	Discharged	Died	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1947
Scarlet Fever	48	430	444	—	34
Diphtheria	5	34	31	3	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	2	—	—
Venereal Disease	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	36	32	3	1
Other Diseases	6	108	109	4	1
Mothers with sick babies	—	—	—	—	—
Babies with sick mothers	—	—	—	—	—
Total	59	610	618	10	41

Year 1947

DISEASE	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1947	Admitted	Discharged	Died	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1948
Scarlet Fever	34	343	332	—	45
Diphtheria	5	44	48	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	4	3	1	—
Venereal Disease	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	85	79	7	—
Other Diseases	1	208	182	18	9
Mothers with sick babies	—	1	1	—	—
Babies with sick mothers	—	3	3	—	—
Total	41	688	648	26	55

During 1948 the Isolation Hospital will pass from the control of the Local Authority and become vested in the Regional Hospital Board. It may be appropriate, therefore, to record some notes on the type of work carried out at the Hospital particularly in regard to its position as a receiving centre for cases of infectious diseases from a wider area than that embraced by the St. Helens County Borough.

The number of cases coming from surrounding areas has already been commented upon. These numbers, however, do not give a true picture of the work falling upon the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital. For several reasons during recent years the proportion of cases demanding cubicle isolation or small ward accommodation has greatly increased. This has placed a great strain on the specialised bed facilities of the hospital and an equal strain on the hospital nursing staff already reduced in strength. An analysis of the major types of cases admitted to Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital during 1947 from the areas of St. Helens, Whiston, Huyton, Prescot and Haydock may illustrate this point. The analysis is not comprehensive of total admissions as several cases of minor diseases are omitted :—

Type of Case	Number of Cases	Type of Isolation required		
		Individual Case Isolation	4 Group or 2 Group Isolation	Main Ward large group Isolation
Scarlet Fever	326	—	—	X
Scarlet Fever with cross infection	17	X	—	—
Measles	37	—	—	X
Measles with pneumonia or cross infection	51	X	X	—
Diphtheria	43	—	—	X
Diphtheria with cross infection	10	X	—	—
Acute tonsillitis, Vincents Angina, Peri-tonsillar abscess	45	X	X	—
Whooping Cough with complication or cross infection	17	—	X	—
Acute infective gastro-enteritis and Dysentery	47	X	X	—
Acute Pneumonia, Catarrhal Croup	27	—	X	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	18	—	X	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	X	—	—
Mumps, Rubella, Erysipelas	13	X	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal or T.B. Meningitis or Miliary Tuberculosis	9	X	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	X	—	—
Pemphigus and Herpes' Zoster	2	X	—	—
1 each of the following :—				
Epilepsy	—	X	—	—
Malaria	—	X	—	—
Influenza	—	X	—	—
Nephritis	—	X	—	—
Acute Transverse Myelitis	—	X	—	—
Henoch's Purpura	—	X	—	—
Acute Rheumatism	—	X	—	—
Pylorospasm	—	X	—	—
Hyperpiesia and Chronic Nephritis	—	X	—	—
Acute Endocarditis	—	X	—	—

NOTE :—X in appropriate column indicates type of isolation required for particular disease.

The above analysis shows how great is the call for specialised isolation for the provision of which increased nursing staff and further cubicle facilities are urgently required.

Finally, it must be noted that in conjunction with an upgrading in nursing staff and specialised bed accommodation a corresponding strengthening of medical staff, particularly consultant medical staff, must be contemplated. The Isolation Hospital of to-day is slowly ceasing to be the receiver of cases of infectious disease already diagnosed, and is becoming more and more the initial admitting point for cases suffering from obscure acute medical ailments demanding diagnosis before admission to the medical wards of a general hospital will be permitted.

AMBULANCE PROVISION.—The arrangements for ambulance provision for the conveyance of bedding, etc., for disinfection remained as in previous years. During 1946 the total Ambulance mileage was 17,379 miles, and in 1947, 18,755 miles.

IV.—LABORATORY WORK.

By arrangement with the E.M.S. Laboratory specimens from the Corporation Hospitals are forwarded direct to that Laboratory, but in addition to these during 1946, 561 other specimens (mainly swabs for examination for diphtheria bacilli) received from sources other than hospitals were also forwarded to the E.M.S. Laboratory for examination and report. The corresponding figure for 1947 was 657 specimens.

In addition during 1946, 8111 specimens of blood for Wasserman Reaction and 590 films for examination for gonococci were forwarded to the City Laboratories, Liverpool. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 547 bloods for Wasserman Reaction and 467 films for examination for gonococci.

Outfits for the collection of specimens of sputa, blood, throat swabs, etc., are supplied free of charge.

V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY.—In 1946 and 1947 the notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were higher than in the previous two years, the increase being due, in part, to the greater number of Service cases invalided from the Forces following the cessation of hostilities. It is also probable that the stringency of present day living conditions was a contributory factor.

During 1946, 105 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis came to the knowledge of the Department, of which 101 were formally notified; the corresponding figures for 1947 being 120, of which 111 were formally notified. It will be seen from Table 6 that the increased incidence falls mainly in the male age group 5-35 years.

The incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis continues to fall, there being 25 new cases during 1946, of which 24 were formally notified, and only 13 cases in 1947, of which 10 were formally notified.

At the end of 1946 there were 478 cases of pulmonary and 276 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis remaining on the Tuberculosis Register, and at the end of 1947 the figures were 486 pulmonary, and 234 non-pulmonary.

MORTALITY.—During 1946 the number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 52, giving a tuberculosis death rate of 5.0 per 10,000 of the population. Of these deaths 48 were due to pulmonary and 4 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

During 1947, the deaths from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 77, giving a tuberculosis death rate of 7.3 per 10,000 of the population. Of these 68 were due to pulmonary and 9 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Age grouping of the new cases and of the deaths that occurred during 1946 and 1947 is shown in Table 6. The number of cases notified and the number of deaths each year during the past 20 years is shown in Table 7.

Table 6.
Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1946.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	1
5 to 15 years	5	2	5	4	4	2	—	1
15 to 25 years	21	14	1	3	5	7	—	1
25 to 35 years	22	10	3	3	4	3	—	—
35 to 45 years	8	8	—	1	7	4	—	—
45 to 55 years	7	1	—	—	8	1	—	—
55 to 65 years	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 —	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Totals	70	35	13	12	31	17	1	3

Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1947.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	2	—	1	1	—	—	3	1
1 to 5 years	1	1	1	3	—	—	1	2
5 to 15 years	1	3	2	3	—	—	1	—
15 to 25 years	21	25	—	—	6	7	—	1
25 to 35 years	14	13	—	1	6	10	—	—
35 to 45 years	8	3	—	1	8	3	—	—
45 to 55 years	11	1	—	—	14	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	7	3	—	—	6	2	—	—
65—	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Totals	71	49	4	9	46	22	5	4

Table 7.

Number of cases notified and number of deaths each year,
1928 to 1947.

Year	No. of Primary notifications received.		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1928	139	68	84	21	7.6	1.9
1929	130	50	91	24	8.3	2.2
1930	119	53	73	26	6.7	2.4
1931	110	67	103	17	9.5	1.6
1932	141	48	72	16	6.7	1.5
1933	107	60	79	11	7.3	1.0
1934	94	40	72	23	6.7	2.1
1935	83	31	65	9	6.0	0.8
1936	75	48	72	7	6.7	0.6
1937	87	46	60	15	5.6	1.4
1938	74	35	57	13	5.3	1.2
1939	57	39	49	21	4.6	1.9
1940	96	44	67	12	6.5	1.2
1941	81	33	46	23	4.5	2.2
1942	80	25	59	15	5.8	1.5
1943	107	24	64	12	6.4	1.2
1944	94	27	48	12	4.9	1.2
1945	81	25	58	13	5.8	1.3
1946	101	24	48	4	4.6	0.4
1947	111	10	68	9	6.4	0.9

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—A record of the work carried out at, or in connection with, the Dispensary is given in Table 8. The Dispensary provides facilities for clinical and radiological examinations of patients and “contacts”, and contains a fully equipped treatment room for pneumothorax refills to out-patients.

In 1946 there were 1603 attendances, and in 1947, 1755. 336 artificial pneumothorax refills were given in 1946 and 407 in 1947.

During 1946 the Ministry of Labour and National Service referred 19 cases for examination and the Ministry of Pensions 34. In 1947 the corresponding figures were: Ministry of Labour 24, Ministry of Pensions 39.

Table 8.

Record of work at or in connection with the Tuberculosis Dispensary during the years 1943-1947.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1. Cases examined for the first time	397	394	284	259	230
2. New contacts examined for the first time	131	83	98	130	84
3. Cases transferred from other areas or returned after discharge from the Register	2	4	1	7	16
Total	530	481	383	396	330
4. Cases and contacts diagnosed to be tuberculous :					
Pulmonary—Adults	72	84	61	99	105
" Children	3	—	—	8	6
Non-pulmonary—Adults	9	9	6	10	2
" Children	13	10	13	16	8
Total	97	103	80	133	121
5. Contacts diagnosed to be tuberculous (<i>included in item 4</i>)	1	—	—	5	3
6. Removed from Dispensary Register as :—					
Non-tuberculous	361	379	262	248	178
Recovered	11	21	33	38	38
Dead (all causes)	40	66	74	52	74
Transferred to other areas or lost sight of	9	7	13	14	43
Total	421	473	382	352	333
7. "Recovered" cases restored to Register (<i>included in items 1 and 4</i>)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December :—					
Diagnosis completed :					
Pulmonary—Adults	308	330	344	448	468
" Children	127	123	115	30	18
Non-Pulmonary—Adults	90	98	98	169	165
" Children	215	214	222	107	69
Diagnosis not completed :					
Adults	43	36	31	80	95
Children	37	27	19	39	55
Total	820	828	829	873	870
9. Pulmonary cases on Register on 31st December which were T.B. +	136	140	133	115	123
10. Consultations with medical practitioners (personal and other)	171	165	173	392	320
11. Sputum examinations	424	306	186	125	95
12. X-ray examinations	1483	2105	1622	1729	1474
13. Home visits by Tuberculosis Officer	105	120	41	95	100
14. Home visits by Nurses or Health Visitors	1151	1021	1183	943	977
15. Attendances at Dispensary	1354	1696	1740	1603	1755

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Patients suffering from tuberculosis of bones and joints are treated under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme.

Cases of tuberculosis of the skin are treated at Belmont Road Hospital, Liverpool, by agreement with the Liverpool Corporation. 12 patients attended that Hospital in 1946 and the same number in 1947. Some of these patients have received Calciferol treatment and the results have, in a number of cases, justified the high opinion held of the value of this new drug in the treatment of Lupus Vulgaris.

Suitable cases of tuberculous adenitis receive Ultra violet light treatment at the Dispensary.

In 1946, 21 cases of cervical adenitis, 4 of abdominal tuberculosis, and 2 of bone and joint tuberculosis made a total of 428 attendances at the U.V.L. sessions. In 1947, 22 cervical adenitis, 4 abdominal and 3 bone cases made 530 attendances.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Arrangements are in operation whereby the Corporation Dental Surgeon visits Eccleston Hall Sanatorium once a week for the purpose of carrying out such dental treatment as may be required. During 1946, 48 patients, and in 1947, 75 patients, received dental treatment at Eccleston Hall Sanatorium, and treatment was provided at the Central Dental Clinic for 7 Dispensary cases in 1946 and 8 Dispensary cases in 1947.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.—There is accommodation for 75 patients at Eccleston Hall Sanatorium. The majority of these are for adults suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, but an average of 10 beds are allocated to children with the pulmonary or non-pulmonary form of the disease. The Sanatorium school provides education for such of those children who are fit enough to attend, and bedside tuition is available for the others.

Full facilities exist for artificial pneumothorax treatment with radiological control, but patients requiring other types of surgical treatment are temporarily transferred to Fazakerley Sanatorium.

During 1946, 88 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, 66 were discharged and 20 died. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 103 admitted, 92 discharged and 27 died. 26 Service patients were treated at the Sanatorium during the two years.

During the two years induction of artificial pneumothorax was performed in 40 cases at Eccleston Hall Sanatorium and 14 patients were temporarily transferred to Fazakerley Sanatorium for various surgical measures such as adhesions section, phrenic nerve section, etc.

STREPTOMYCIN.—This new antibiotic is not yet generally available, but in 1947 the Medical Research Council allocated a limited quantity for the treatment of cases of miliary tuberculosis and tuberculous meningitis occurring in the Liverpool and Merseyside area. This special treatment was centralised at Alder Hey Hospital and the Royal Southern Hospital. During that year, one case of miliary tuberculosis and two of meningitis were admitted to these hospitals from St. Helens, and all received streptomycin treatment.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS.—In 1946, 7 cases of early pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted to the Liverpool Sanatorium, Delamere. 11 patients received treatment there in 1947.

An average of 8 beds for non-pulmonary tuberculosis were kept in constant use at the Liverpool Open Air Hospital for Children during the two years, and 1 case was admitted to the Wrightington Hospital for orthopaedic treatment.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE.—Social care and after-care of all tuberculosis patients is carried out by a special Welfare Officer appointed for the purpose. This officer is responsible, under the general supervision of the Tuberculosis Officer, for the administration of the various activities for promoting the welfare of such patients.

TUBERCULOSIS ALLOWANCE SCHEME.—The Government scheme for financial allowances for patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis which first came into operation on October 1st, 1943, continued to be administered during 1946 and 1947, and the total amount paid in allowances during this period amounted to £4934/8/9. Included in this total were 10 discretionary allowances towards the cost of hire purchase and insurance premiums, and 10 special payments of pocket money allowances to patients in Ecclestone Hall Sanatorium.

During these years, 3 patients in receipt of allowances were awarded disability pensions, 10 returned to full employment, and 4 were referred to the Social Welfare Department on the expiration of their period of eligibility.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.—During the two years under review extra nourishment in the form of free milk was provided for 61 patients whose family incomes fell below a pre-determined scale.

REHABILITATION.—Some examples of other activities in connection with Welfare work among tuberculosis patients are given below :—

1. **Housing.**—During the years 1946 and 1947, 54 families (in which one or more members were suffering from tuberculosis) were notified to the Housing Department as being in need of re-housing. 22 of these were allocated houses by December, 1947. One outstanding case was a patient invalided from the Army, who had spent 4½ years in Hospitals and Sanatoria. This patient had been discharged from the Service prior to the arrangements being made for ex-Service men to receive gratuities and post-war credits, and he had very little money. He was helped by the British Red Cross Rehabilitation Fund to the extent of £50 towards furniture and furnishings. Later as a result of improved living conditions and a more contented mind he was able to take up a light job and once again become the breadwinner for his family.

2. **Shelters.**—Three Strawson type revolving shelters are available for the use of domiciliary patients. One was erected in the garden of the home of a female patient. This patient has derived great benefit from its use. In this case the home was overcrowded and sleeping accommodation limited. The erection of this shelter provided an extra room for the exclusive use of the patient.

3. **Employment.**—The scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour whereby every endeavour is made to provide special training and suitable occupations for physically handicapped persons, has proved of great help in the re-habilitation of tuberculosis patients. The improved possibilities now available of finding suitable work after treatment has given considerable encouragement to persons who previously were inclined to develop a hopeless attitude towards their chances of future employment. 70 tuberculosis patients had their names placed on the Register of Disabled Persons. 23 of these, with the aid of the Ministry of Labour, entered entirely new occupations, 7 returned to their old jobs, whilst 3 returned to their old occupations under different employers; the remainder were able to take up light work for short periods but were not always suitable material for training in new occupations owing to age and temperament.

VI.—VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following statement shows the number of cases dealt with at the Venereal Diseases Centre during the years 1946 and 1947 in comparison with the numbers in 1945 :—

	1945		1946		1947	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. No. of cases under treatment or observation on 1st January	29	101	49	72	81	60
2. No. of new cases (including cases previously removed from the register who returned for further observation or treatment)	85	159	234	133	190	80
3. No. of cases discharged after completion of treatment or transferred to other centres or ceased to attend	65	188	255	145	226	110
4. No. of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	49	72	81	60	66	31
5. No. of attendances :—						
(a) For consultation or treatment by Medical Officers	759	1447	2007	1517	1519	920
(b) For intermediate treatments	44	794	562	140	516	75

Table 9 shows the number of cases of definite venereal disease treated for the first time at the St. Helens Venereal Diseases Centre during each of the past ten years. This table excludes cases which had received treatment previously at other Centres and also cases removed from the register in previous years who returned for treatment or observation for the same infection. This Table might, therefore, be taken as showing the local incidence of these diseases.

Table 9.

Number of new cases of Venereal Diseases dealt with during 10 years, 1938 to 1947 :

Year	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1938	5	7	—	—	36	13	61
1939	6	9	—	—	40	14	69
1940	2	10	1	—	14	7	34
1941	3	6	—	—	22	12	43
1942	11	7	—	—	28	13	59
1943	11	13	—	—	39	41	104
1944	21	28	—	—	27	29	105
1945	18	40	2	—	33	19	112
1946	23	20	—	—	76	12	131
1947	22	13	—	—	62	16	113

During 1946 and 1947 the general incidence of Venereal Diseases remained at a high level as evidenced by the number of new cases recorded at the treatment centre during these years.

An analysis of the gross figures revealed variations related to sex incidence and type of venereal infection. Thus although the figure for male syphilis remained at approximately the same high level as during the war years there was a markedly lessened incidence in cases of female syphilis, and a less marked diminution in cases of female gonorrhoea. There was, however, a great increase in the number of cases of male gonorrhoea during 1946 which returned the highest total ever recorded—a total only slightly lessened during 1947.

A special case investigation into this high incidence of gonorrhoea in males was carried out during 1946. As far as ascertainment is possible in cases of this type the following facts emerged :—

- (1) 58% of all infections were contracted elsewhere than in St. Helens. All contacts were stated to be casual.
- (2) 24% of infections were contracted from sources in the borough. In only 3 cases, however, could information be obtained in respect of the contact, and through the services of the Welfare Worker these 3 contacts were brought under treatment. All other sources of infection were stated to be casual.
- (3) 18% of infections were attributed to marital sources. In some cases the partner was already attending the female centre for treatment. In a balance of cases where this was not so, an attempt was made to attain this object through the offices of the supposedly infected male. Little success was, however, obtained, a point which emphasises the unreliability of statements as to the original source of infection.

While the number of cases attending for treatment during the 2 years was high, it is satisfactory to record that the rate of defaulting in treatment was generally low. This can be attributed in great measure to the striking and efficient results achieved by the introduction of treatment with penicillin which had the effect of shortening the period of treatment especially in cases of gonorrhoea.

The following statement shows the number of cases treated with penicillin during the two years under review :—

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other Diseases		Totals		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Penicillin treatment during 1946	19	5	64	12	7	—	90	17	107
Penicillin treatment during 1947	30	13	56	15	6	3	92	31	123

In no case notified locally during the 2 years was there sufficient information available to enforce Regulation 33B, but by informal follow-up methods 3 cases were brought under treatment in 1946 and 1 during 1947.

During 1946 one male case suffering from gonorrhoea received a total of 51 days' in-patient treatment at Belmont Road Hospital, Liverpool, under arrangements made with the Liverpool Corporation.

VII.—NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

No alterations occurred during either year in the general nursing arrangements or hospital facilities, and these remain as detailed in the Report for 1938.

VIII.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 2,258 live births and 84 still births were notified during 1946. In respect of these, 2,215 notifications were received from midwives and 128 from doctors. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 2,716 live births and 91 still births, 2,543 notified by midwives and 173 by doctors.

The total number of live births registered as belonging to St. Helens was 2,322 in 1946 and 2,663 in 1947, giving a birth rate of 22.2 per 1,000 of the population for the year 1946 and 25.2 per 1,000 of the population in 1947. The corresponding rates over the past 5 years were respectively 18.6 in 1941, 17.7 in 1942, 19.8 in 1943, 20.5 in 1944 and 20.3 in 1945.

INFANT MORTALITY.—During 1946 the death occurred of 139 infants under the age of one year, giving an Infant Mortality Rate for that year of 59.9 per 1,000 live births. The number of infants who died under one year of age during 1947 was 186, giving an Infant Mortality Rate for that year of 69.8 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rates during the preceding five years were 71.2 in 1941, 64.7 in 1942, 72.5 in 1943, 57.5 in 1944 and 60.1 in 1945. The average for the five years, 1943—1947 was 64.0.

The principal causes of these deaths during 1946 and 1947 were :—

	1946	1947
Congenital debility and premature birth	49	38
Congenital malformations	35	48
Pneumonia	13	32
Bronchitis	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	—	—
Diarrhoea	25	41
Other digestive disorders	3	1
Measles	2	6
Whooping Cough	3	1
Influenza	—	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.....	1	—
Tuberculosis	—	4
Intra-Cranial Haemorrhage	—	1
Other causes.....	7	8
	<u>139</u>	<u>186</u>

During 1946 there was an increase in the number of deaths due to congenital debility and premature birth, but the numbers due to other causes showed no significant variation compared with previous years.

During 1947 there was an increase in the number of deaths due to congenital malformations, but a slight decrease in the number due to premature birth. Both of these conditions exact a heavy toll on infant life, and further investigation into the causes of these conditions is necessary so that such a loss may be avoided. There was also an increase in the deaths due to pneumonia and diarrhoea. Those due to pneumonia occurred mostly in the exceptionally long cold spell of weather in the early months of the year.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1946 was 43 per 1,000 births, and for 1947, 41 per 1,000 births. The rates for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London, were 46 in 1946 and 47 in 1947.

STILL-BIRTHS.—84 Still-births were notified during 1946 and 91 in 1947. All still-births notified are investigated with regard to cause.

MATERNAL DEATHS.—During 1946, 2 deaths were registered as resulting from childbirth or diseases or accidents of pregnancy, giving a maternal mortality rate for that year of 0.83 per 1,000 live and still-births. In neither of these cases was the cause of death due to sepsis. This is the lowest maternal mortality rate ever recorded in St. Helens.

In 1947, 5 maternal deaths occurred, giving a maternal mortality for that year of 1.81 per 1,000 live and still-births. 1 other death registered as cardiac failure due to pulmonary embolism, however, was due to the after-effects of childbirth, and brings the true maternal mortality rate to 2.17 per 1,000 live and still-births. 2 of the 6 deaths were attributable to sepsis, one being due to acute fulminating septicaemia arising from a Haemolytic Streptococcal focus in the pharynx and the other was due to Cerebral Embolism following Pelvic Sepsaemia.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—4 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during 1946, and 9 cases in 1947. The final diagnoses of these cases were :—

	1946	1947
Localised Pelvic Infection	3	5
Septicaemia	1	1
Mastitis	—	1
Pyelitis	—	1
Cystitis	—	1
	4	9

In 1946 all the cases recovered, two being treated in hospital.

In 1947 one case of Septicaemia died, and 1 patient with localised pelvic infection died of a Cerebral Embolism. All the other cases recovered.

There is no doubt that the early and effective treatment of such cases with Penicillin and the Sulphonamide drugs is proving a very powerful aid to the treatment of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During 1946, 9 cases were notified. 3 were treated in hospital and 6 at home, and all recovered with vision unimpaired. In 1947, 3 cases were notified, and all recovered with vision unimpaired. Here again, the value of Penicillin and Sulphonamide therapy is unquestionably apparent.

Pemphigus.—No cases were reported during either year.

Other Infectious Diseases.—The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases which occurred in children under 5 years of age, and the deaths resulting therefrom.

	Under 1 year				1—5 years			
	Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	130	100	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	6	11	—	—
Measles	26	112	2	4	122	1036	—	5
Whooping Cough	51	29	3	1	299	126	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	—	1	—	2	3	—	1

Home Nursing and Hospital Arrangements.—By arrangements with the St. Helens and District Nursing Association, home nursing is provided in suitable cases, and for those requiring hospital treatment, beds are available at the Isolation Hospital. During 1946, 2 cases of puerperal pyrexia, 8 cases of measles, 9 cases of whooping cough and 3 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were admitted to that hospital, and during 1947 4 cases of puerperal pyrexia, 45 cases of measles, 13 cases of whooping cough and 2 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.—In 1946, 33 midwives notified their intention to practise within the Borough. Of these, 6 were in private practice, 14 were municipal midwives, 7 were employed in the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, and 6 in the Maternity Block of the St. Helens Hospital.

In 1947, 42 midwives notified their intention to practise within the Borough. Of these, 10 were in private practice, 14 were municipal midwives, 10 were employed in the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, and 8 in the Maternity Block of the St. Helens Hospital.

The supervision and inspection of midwives is carried out partly by Medical Officers and partly by the Inspector of Midwives. During 1946 a total of 33 visits for inspection and supervision of private midwives and 102 visits of inspection of municipal midwives were carried out. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 50 visits to private midwives and 160 to municipal midwives.

During 1946 the private and municipal midwives attended 981 cases as midwives and 173 cases as maternity nurses, and during 1947 they attended 1171 cases as midwives and 203 as maternity nurses.

In their capacity as midwives they found it necessary to call medical practitioners to their assistance on 286 occasions (29.1% of the cases attended) in 1946, and on 317 occasions (23.07%) in 1947.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.—The following table gives a summary of the work done by the staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service during the years 1946 and 1947 :—

	1946	1947
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Number of cases attended :—		
as midwife	878	1043
as maternity nurse	150	175
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1028	1218
Number of live births	958	1165
Number of still births	33	29
Number of abortions	55	48
Number of cases in which midwife sent for		
Medical assistance	261(29.7%)	296(24.3%)
Supervisor's visits and inspections	102	160

HEALTH VISITING.—The Health Visitors combine the duties connected with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service and the School Medical Service. In addition, 6 Student Health Visitors are given their practical training in St. Helens but attend the Liverpool University School of Hygiene for their theoretical training.

The following statement shows the visits paid by health visitors during the two years under review :—

	1946	1947
	<hr/>	<hr/>
To expectant mothers :—		
(a) first visits	461	434
(b) subsequent visits	649	678
To infants under one year :—		
(a) first visits	2149	2855
(b) subsequent visits	5856	7554
To children, aged one to five years	16234	18014
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total visits	25349	29535
	<hr/>	<hr/>

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.—During 1946 there were 2 private Nursing Homes registered in St. Helens, with accommodation for 15 maternity cases. The number of maternity patients delivered in these homes was 248.

In the maternity block of the St. Helens Hospital 379 cases were delivered.

During 1947, one Maternity Home was approved for registration. This Home contains 4 maternity beds. Together with the existing 2 Nursing Homes in the borough, this new home brings the total to three Nursing Homes with a total of 21 beds. The number of maternity cases delivered in these Homes in 1947 was 266.

In the maternity block of the St. Helens Hospital, 420 cases were delivered in 1947.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.—Clinics for children under 5 years of age are held at 9 sessions weekly at 6 centres. The number of children under 1 year who attended these clinics may be considered satisfactory, 77.8% of the notified births attending in 1946 and 70.5% in 1947.

Table 10 shows the attendances at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics during the years 1946 and 1947, in comparison with the year 1945.

Table 10.

Attendances at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

	1945	1946	1947
Child Welfare Clinics.			
No. of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—			
(i) under 1 year of age	1524	1493	1701
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	282	265	216
Percentage of notified births represented by the number of children who on the date of their first attendance were under 1 year of age	74.2	77.8	70.5
Number who attended and at the end of the year were—			
(i) under 1 year of age	1298	1313	1615
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	1473	1756	1621
No. of attendances by children—			
(i) under 1 year of age	13060	12522	14254
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	2838	2880	3255
Ante-natal Clinics.			
No. of expectant mothers who attended	1373	1925	2075
No. of attendances by expectant mothers	6531	9009	10370
Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the number of expectant mothers who attended either the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres or the Ante-natal Clinics	64.8	82.1	73.9
Gynaecological and Post-natal Clinic.			
No. of Mothers who attended	255	331	293
No. of attendances	464	547	353
Sunlight Clinic.			
No. of Children who attended.....	134	145	167
No. of attendances	2906	3286	1840
Toddlers' Clinics.			
No. of Toddlers who attended	156	191	175
No. of attendances	237	511	248

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at the Child Welfare Clinics as well as at the special sessions held at the School Clinic in Cloughton Street, and at the outlying district clinics.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.—Special ante-natal clinics are held 7 times weekly at 6 centres. In 82.2% of the total notified (live and still) births during 1946 the mothers had attended one or other of these clinics. The corresponding percentage for 1947 was 73.9.

New clinic premises for the Thatto Heath district were opened in Lacey Street in 1946 to replace rooms which had previously been rented in a mission hall in West Street. After adaptations had been carried out, the accommodation provided consists of a waiting-room, weighing room, consulting room, nurses' office, milk room, cloakroom and sanitary accommodation. The whole forms a compact unit and is appreciated by the mothers in that well-populated part of the town. The centre is used for ante-natal, child welfare, dental, orthopaedic, immunisation and minor ailments sessions, and it is anticipated that the work will grow in this area.

GYNAECOLOGICAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.—This clinic is held once a week at the Town Hall Centre and serves the double purpose of investigation of gynaecological conditions associated with pregnancy and as a clinic for post-natal supervision.

During 1946, 219 patients visited this clinic for post-natal examinations, and in 1947 the number of post-natal patients who attended was 293. Post-natal supervision is, however, also carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics and at the Ante-natal Clinics held in the outlying districts, and the total number of women who received special post-natal supervision was 642 in 1946 and 800 in 1947.

The number of gynaecological patients attending this clinic was 112 (277 attendances) in 1946 and 88 (280 attendances) in 1947.

Patients who needed operative treatment were referred to the Council's Gynaecological Consultant who examines and treats such patients at the St. Helens Hospital.

At this clinic patients may also receive advice on Birth Control methods when such is desirable for medical reasons. The following statement indicates the number of patients to whom such advice was given, and the reasons, during the years 1946 and 1947 :

	1946	1947
Renal Disease	10	8
Cardiac Disease	6	3
Hypertension	4	—
Severe Anaemia	3	—
Cerebral Thrombosis	1	—
Previous history of recurrent puerperal mania	1	—
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1
Parkinson's Disease	—	1
	25	13

11 patients sought advice because of infertility during 1946 and 9 during 1947.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC.—To this clinic, which is held twice weekly, are referred weakly and debilitated children likely to benefit from ultra violet therapy. During 1946, 145 children made 3,286 attendances for irradiation, and during 1947 167 children made 1,840 attendances. Generally speaking, the results have been very good.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The accommodation at the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, Cowley Hill, consists of 25 maternity beds in a hospital block and 20 cots for children under 5 years of age in a Children's Annexe. Additional maternity beds can be made available in emergency.

The hospital is a recognised Training School for the Part II examination of the Central Midwives Board.

The total number of maternity cases nursed in the hospital during 1946 was 687. This number included 20 patients already in hospital on the 1st January, and 93 expectant mothers who were admitted for ante-natal treatment. The number of deliveries during the year was 598. There were 32 still-births, and 13 infants died within 10 days of birth. 27 patients were admitted after delivery.

During 1946 the average durations of stay in hospital for the ante-natal patients was 11.5 days and 13.8 days for the lying-in-patients.

The following abnormal cases were dealt with during the year 1946 :—

Caesarean Section	20
Forceps Delivery	2
Retained placenta	3
Intra and Post-Partum Haemorrhage	10
Ante-partum Haemorrhage	6
Cardiac Disease	4
Toxaemia of pregnancy	21
Diabetes Mellitus	1
Induction of labour.....	16
Breech delivery	29
Prolapsed Cord	3
Shoulder Presentation	4
Face Presentation	1
Abnormality of foetus	6
Twins	13
Ruptured perineum	105

There were no maternal deaths in the hospital during the year. Early in 1946 a second Consultant Obstetrician was appointed, making the services of two consultants available for cases who need their advice and treatment.

When expectant mothers required to go into hospital for their confinement and the accommodation at the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital was booked up, such patients were referred to the Ante-natal Clinic held at the County Hospital, Whiston, in order to make arrangements for their confinement at that hospital.

In the Children's Annexe, 103 children under 5 years of age were admitted and 15 children were already in hospital on the 1st January, so that a total of 118 children were accommodated during the year. 69 of these children were admitted for care and supervision while their mothers were in hospital for confinement or operations, or for illnesses such as Pneumonia, Cardiac disease, Mental disease or Rheumatism. The remaining 49 children were admitted for the following reasons :—

Marasmus.....	14
Debility	14
Rickets	10
Prematurity	8
Pyloro-spasm	2
Congenital Cardiac Disease	1

The total number of maternity cases nursed in the hospital during 1947 was 738. This number included 38 patients already in hospital on the 1st January, and 84 expectant mothers who were admitted for ante-natal treatment. The

number of deliveries during the year was 634. There were 32 still-births and 11 infants died within 10 days of birth. 19 patients were admitted after delivery.

During 1947 the average duration of stay in hospital was 9.8 days for the ante-natal patients, and 13.2 days for the lying-in-patients.

The following abnormalities were dealt with during the year 1947 :—

Caesarean Section	13
Forceps delivery	12
Internal Version	1
Removal of Retained Placenta	5
Craniotomy	1
Episiotomy	11
Eclampsia	1
Prolapsed Cord	3
Breech Delivery	28
Ante-partum Haemorrhage	8
Cardiac Disease	6
Twins	10
Induction of Labour	23
Toxaemia of pregnancy	39
Ruptured perineum	107
Face presentation	3
Post partum haemorrhage	3

In 1947, there were 4 maternal deaths, the causes being (1) Intra-partum Haemorrhage due to Retained Placenta; (2) Uraemia due to Chronic Interstitial Nephritis; (3) Cerebral Haemorrhage due to Hyperpiesia; and (4) Placenta Praevia.

In the children's annexe 102 children under 5 years of age were admitted and 13 children were already in hospital on 1st January, so that a total of 115 children were accommodated during the year. 82 children were admitted for care and supervision while their mothers were in hospital for confinement or operations or for illnesses such as Pneumonia, Cardiac Disease, Thrombo-Phlebitis, Pyelitis, Rheumatism or Mental illness. The remaining 33 children were admitted for the following reasons :—

Marasmus.....	10
Prematurity	7
Rickets	5
Gastritis	3
Spina Bifida	2
Congenital Heart Disease	2
Debility	2
Jaundice	1
Coeliac Disease	1

The average number of days spent in hospital by these children was 42.1 days.

An outbreak of Gastro-Enteritis occurred in one of the Children's Wards in the Annexe in April, 1947. It lasted 10 days, attacked all the eight children in one ward, and caused 5 deaths. The origin of the outbreak was never discovered.

THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.—Since 1944 special efforts have been directed towards preserving life in premature infants. The birth weight is stated on every notification of birth form, and in those cases born at home where the birth weight was less than 5 lbs. 8 ozs. a special visit was immediately made by the Supervisor of Midwives. For such infants remaining at home, special basket cots fitted with special lining, mattress and bedding, a Belcroy feeding bottle and hot water bottles are available, and have proved of value.

For premature infants born in the Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, or admitted to that hospital from their own home, a special electrically heated cot

is provided in a small nursery and special nursing and feeding care are given to such patients.

When these infants are discharged from hospital, or when the midwife has ceased to attend to those born at home, the Health Visitor concerned is immediately notified, and pays special follow-up visits.

THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.—As in previous years, special consideration was given to the care of the unmarried mother and her child, and arrangements were continued whereby two places are reserved in the St. Monica's Home, Liverpool, for cases from St. Helens and places are taken in other Homes as required. All cases of unmarried expectant mothers coming to the knowledge of the Department through Health Visitors, Municipal Midwives, Moral Welfare Workers and other agencies, are notified to the Medical Officer in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare Services, who, after investigation, decides which cases can be dealt with at home or through local hospitals, and which cases can most suitably be dealt with by periods of residence in suitable homes. The mother is admitted to the Home about two months before the expected confinement and remains there after confinement until suitable arrangements can be made for the after-care of herself and the child. During 1946, 98 unmarried mothers were assisted under these arrangements, and during 1947, 75 were assisted.

In the majority of cases it was found that the parents were willing to keep the girl at home during the pregnancy if some arrangements could be made for the confinement. During 1946, 34 cases of confinement took place at home, the corresponding number for 1947 was 27.

The following list gives the place of confinement :—

	1946	1947
In the Corporation Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital	16	8
In the County Hospital, Whiston	23	28
At Parents' Homes	34	27
In Nursing Homes	3	2
In Diocesan or other Voluntary Homes	10	5
Left the district	2	—
No. of patients undelivered on 31st December	10	5
	—	—
	98	75
	—	—

All the mothers who entered Diocesan Homes were assisted by the Corporation in the payment of their fees. All the unmarried mothers were helped to take out Affiliation Orders.

Every effort was made in all cases to enable the mother to keep the child with her in her parents' home, and in many cases these efforts were successful. The following is a summary of the disposal of the children born during the two years :—

	1946	1947
No. cared for by grandparents while mother goes to work	60	41
No. cared for by mother	8	14
No. adopted	4	4
No. seeking adoption	1	—
No. in Institutions	1	4
No. boarded out with foster-parents	1	—
No. who died	2	2
No. stillborn	2	3
No. whose parents married later	7	2
	—	—
	86	70
	—	—

DAY NURSERY.—This Nursery is open from 6-30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday and 6-30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, and accommodation is limited to children whose mothers are working. During both years, this accommodation was fully utilised. The number on the register was 35, and the average daily attendance (excluding Saturday and Sunday), was 22.3 in 1946 and 26.0 in 1947.

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease in the Nursery during either year, and on the whole the health of the children was good.

With the appeal to the mothers to return to work, there is urgent need for more nursery accommodation in St. Helens. All the mothers of these children were working during these two years.

MILK FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.—With the continuance of the National Milk Scheme, the issue of dried milk through the Council's scheme for milk for mothers and infants was limited to special cases for whom the National Scheme was not altogether satisfactory.

During 1946, approximately 68½ cwt. of dried milk were distributed through the Council's scheme, and of this, 61 lbs. were issued free and 13 lbs. at less than cost price.

In 1947, approximately 81 cwt. were distributed, of which 509 lbs. were issued free and 82 lbs. at less than cost price.

MINOR AILMENTS AND DENTAL DEFECTS.—During 1946, 28 children received treatment for minor ailments, and 207 mothers and 40 children received dental treatment at the Council's Clinics. During 1947, the number of children who received treatment for minor ailments was 58, and 230 mothers and 62 children received dental treatment.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN.—Crippling defects in children under 5 years of age are dealt with under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, which provides periodic supervision by the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and the special Orthopaedic Nurse, and hospital treatment when required. A complete record of the work under the Orthopaedic Scheme is given in Tables 11 and 12.

From these Tables it will be seen that during 1946, 236 maternity and child welfare cases were dealt with, 4 cases being admitted to hospital for operation.

During 1947, 184 maternity and child welfare cases were dealt with under this Scheme.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.—Particulars are given in the following statement of cases dealt with each year.

	1946	1947
Number of persons on the Register receiving children for reward at end of year	2	2
Number of children :—		
(a) On the Register on 1st January	2	2
(b) Admitted to the Register during the year	3	1
(c) Removed from the Register during the year—		
(i) Left the Borough	—	—
(ii) Legally adopted	—	—
(iii) Returned to relatives	3	1
(iv) Over age	— 3	— 1
(d) Died during the year	—	—
(e) On the Register on 31st December	2	2

The children were inspected regularly by the Health Visitors, who are also Child Protection Visitors, and all were found to be well cared for and living under satisfactory conditions.

IX.—ORTHOPAEDICS.

The general arrangements for the carrying out of the work of the Orthopaedic Department remained as in previous years, and a summary of the work during the years 1946 and 1947 is given in Table 11. Table 12 shows the cases treated classified according to their defects.

Table 11.

Record of work under Orthopaedic Scheme during the years 1946 and 1947.

	Tuberculous Cases		Maternity and Child Welfare Cases		Non-tubercular School Children	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Number of cases on the Register, 1st January	18	24	140	107	191	207
Number of new cases seen during the year	8	6	96	77	107	151
Number of old cases seen during the year	18	24	140	107	191	207
Number who attended for consultation only	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number discharged cured or improved	—	1	29	11	43	29
Number discharged showing no material improvement	—	—	—	6	—	1
Number ceased to attend, over age, etc.	2	1	76	41	47	84
Cases transferred to Education Account	—	1	21	18	—	—
Cases transferred to Tuberculosis Account	—	—	3	1	1	—
Number of cases remaining under treatment at end of the year	24	27	107	107	207	244
Attendances to see Orthopaedic Surgeon	46	67	349	322	568	616
Attendances for intermediate treatment	54	101	517	380	2345	2332
Visits to Homes by Orthopaedic Nurse	158	173	72	209	65	142
Cases treated in Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital :						
Myrtle Street	—	—	—	1	—	—
Heswall	—	—	4	2	3	5
Cases treated in Leasowe Open-Air Hospital for Children	9	11	—	—	1	—
Cases treated in Royal Southern Hospital	—	—	—	2	8	13
Cases treated in Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases treated in Eccleston Hall Sanatorium	5	9	—	—	—	—
Total number of days of Institutional Treatment	3729	4400	651	914	965	1651

Table 12.
Defects treated under Orthopaedic Scheme during 1946 and 1947.

Defect	Tuberculous Cases		Maternity and Child Welfare Cases		Non-tubercular School Children	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Infantile Paralysis	—	—	7	9	15	28
Other forms of Paralysis.....	—	—	13	9	12	20
Rickets	—	—	20	21	22	8
Congenital deformities	—	—	4	24	27	24
Acquired foot deformities	—	—	132	104	146	198
Traumatism	—	—	4	—	10	6
Perthes Disease	—	—	—	—	3	2
Arthritis	—	—	1	1	2	4
Osteomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	4
Postural defects	—	—	16	7	64	48
Miscellaneous	—	—	9	9	10	16
Tuberculosis :						
(a) Spine	11	11	—	—	—	—
(b) Hip	7	8	—	—	—	—
(c) Knee	4	5	—	—	—	—
(d) Ankle	1	2	—	—	—	—
(e) Others	3	4	—	—	—	—
(f) Crippling due to old lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	26	30	206	184	312	358

X.—WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

There were 219 Blind Persons on the Blind Register for St. Helens on 1st January, 1946. During 1947 the number increased by 6 to 225. The following is an analysis of the cases on the register at the 31st December each year.

Age distribution :—		1946	1947
Age	0—4 years	—	—
	5—15 „	6	5
	16—20 „	10	11
	21—49 „	42	41
	50—69 „	72	74
	70— „	83	94
Total		213	225

Educational and occupational distribution :—	1946	1947
	—	—
Infant	—	—
Education—At school	6	5
Not at school	—	—
Employment—Employed (Workshops or Home Workers Scheme)	25	18
Employed (Working on own account)	6	8
Under training	4	3
Not training but trainable	1	2
Unemployable	171	189
Trained, but unemployed	—	—

All provision for the care and welfare of the local blind—with the exception of that of blind children under two years of age, and the education of children of school age and vocational training—is undertaken on behalf of the Corporation by the St. Helens and District Society for the Welfare of the Blind.

XI.—POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.

By agreement with the Lancashire County Council, cases requiring institutional treatment are admitted to the County Hospital, Whiston, or to the Whiston Institution. During 1946, 903 patients were admitted to the Hospital and 326 to the Institution. For the year 1947 the corresponding figures were 1061 admissions to the Hospital and 396 to the Institution.

For outdoor medical relief the town is divided into five medical relief districts for each of which there is a part-time District Medical Officer. During the 12 months ending 31st March, 1946, 268 medical orders were issued and there was an average of 364 persons on the permanent medical relief list. During the 12 months ending 31st March, 1947, 269 medical orders were issued and 415 persons were on the permanent medical relief list. During the same periods the number of prescriptions completed by chemists in connection with the treatment of these cases was 5,708 and 5,544 respectively.

Dental cases are treated at the Council's Dental Clinic, and the following statement summarises the number of Public Assistance Committee cases dealt with at that Clinic during the years 1946 and 1947 :—

	1946	1947
	—	—
Cases treated	42	52
Dentures supplied	12	19
Dentures repaired	4	5

Cases with eye diseases or defects are treated by the Ophthalmic Surgeon at either the St. Helens Hospital or the Providence Hospital.

XII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The municipal abattoir remains in sole use by the Ministry of Food, but the inspection and supervision of all meat at the abattoir continues to be carried out by the Corporation's Superintendent, who is a qualified meat inspector. Table 13 gives the result of such inspection.

The agreements with the St. Helens Retail Butchers' Buying Committee and the North Western Wholesale Meat Supply Association Limited, for the use of the Cold Stores at the Abattoir, were continued throughout both years.

Table 13.
CARCASSES INSPECTED AT PUBLIC ABATTOIR—YEARS 1946 AND 1947.

	Cattle excluding cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Number killed	1833	2252	4395	3779	3415	3787	15325	11698	546	390
Number inspected	1833	2252	4395	3780*	3417*	3788*	15332*	11706*	550*	390
Condemned :—										
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis :—										
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	36	26	31	72	24	16	7	3
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	901	1222	1234	1204	6	2	1583	1013	59	45
(iii) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	49.2%	54.2%	28.8%	32.5%	1.1%	1.9%	10.5%	8.7%	12.0%	12.3%
(b) Tuberculosis only :—										
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	4	7	192	133	6	16	—	—	2	3
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	146	209	2182	1912	14	17	—	—	14	7
(iii) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.1%	9.5%	54.0%	54.0%	0.6%	0.8%	—	—	2.9%	2.5%

* Of these numbers the following (killed elsewhere), were brought to the Abattoir for inspection purposes. 1946, 2 calves, 7 sheep and lambs, and 4 pigs. 1947, 1 cow, 1 calf, and 8 sheep and lambs.

In addition to the Public Abattoir there is one private slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough for the slaughter of pigs only, but owing to the present operation of the scheme for the control of meat and livestock its use has been temporarily discontinued.

During 1946, 2 licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, were issued and 25 licences were renewed to slaughtermen employed at the Public Abattoir; during 1947, 3 licences and 28 renewals were granted.

The arrangements for the inspection and supervision of other foodstuffs in the Borough, and of premises in which they are prepared and sold, remained as in previous years.

The number of premises registered under Section 127 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish or other food was at the end of 1946 144, and at the end of 1947 the number was 138.

During 1946, 6,064 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other places where food is prepared or stored, and in 26 instances minor offences against various Acts and Orders were discovered and 332 nuisances or defects found.

During 1947, 7,061 visits of inspection were made, and 34 minor offences discovered and 260 nuisances or defects found.

The following are the total quantities of various classes of foodstuffs which were condemned at the abattoir or in shops, etc., owing to being diseased or unsound :—

	1946 lbs.	1947 lbs.
Meat	315,070	271,748
Canned Goods	5,706	9,918
Fruit	84	318
Fish	1,836	4,593
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	3,641	1,968
Totals	<u>326,337</u>	<u>288,545</u>

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.—During 1946, 6 infringements, and during 1947 7 infringements of these Regulations were found. These mainly referred to premises requiring whitewashing or with unsuitable receptacles for trimmings and refuse. In all instances the unsatisfactory conditions were remedied after service of notice.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943.—The number of persons and premises on the register at the end of the year was :—

	1946	1947
Cowkeepers and wholesale and retail purveyors of milk	3	3
Cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk	2	2
Cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk	9	9
Purveyors of milk	286	286
Cowsheds and Dairies	41	35

During 1946, 492 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to these premises. Legal proceedings were instituted during the year against a dairy farmer for several infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and a fine of £2 and costs was imposed. 14 other infringements of the Order were dealt with by verbal or written notices. These related mainly to premises requiring limewashing or to lack of cleanliness.

During 1947, 617 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to these premises. 25 infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, were dealt with by verbal or written notices. These related mainly to premises requiring lime-washing or to lack of cleanliness.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946.—The following licences were granted under the above-mentioned regulations :—

	1946	1947
Licence authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED" in respect of the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled	1	1
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "ACCREDITED" in respect of the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled	6	6
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED" in respect of the establishment in which the process of pasteurising is carried on, and in respect of any shop or other establishment from which the milk is sold	1	—
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED" from an establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled)	3	1
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED" in respect of establishments (not being establishments at which the process of pasteurising is carried on) from which the milk is sold	8	6
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED" with respect to milk sold from a shop or other establishment which is outside the area of the licensing authority	—	2
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED" with respect to milk sold from a shop or other establishment which is outside the area of the licensing authority	—	2

No fees are charged by the Council in respect of licences granted under these Regulations.

Biological Examination of Milk.—In the routine examination of milk supplies 101 samples in 1946 and 58 in 1947 were examined by guinea-pig inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Positive evidence of tubercle bacilli was found in 1 of the samples in 1946 and 3 in 1947, but in 5 instances in 1946 and 2 instances in 1947 the guinea-pigs died too soon for definite diagnoses to be made.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.—During 1946 in addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 41 samples were also taken for the methylene blue reduction tests, and examination for the presence of bacillus coli.

The results of these examinations show that of 10 samples of tuberculin tested milk, 3 samples (30%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test required by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and 2 samples contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre. Of 31 samples of accredited milk 7 (22.58%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and in 2 samples (6.45%) bacillus coli was found in 1/100th millilitre or less.

215 samples of pasteurised or heat treated milk were also examined for the methylene blue (30 minutes) test. Of these 19 (8.83%) failed to pass the test.

During 1947, in addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 68 samples were also taken for the methylene blue reduction tests and for examination for the presence of bacillus coli.

The results of these examinations show that of 12 samples of tuberculin tested milk 3 samples (25%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test required by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and 2 samples (16.6%) contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre. Of 51 samples of accredited milk 10 (19.6%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and in 7 samples (13.7%) bacillus coli was found in 1/100th millilitre or less.

Of 5 samples of ungraded raw milk 3 (60%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and 2 (40%) contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre.

225 samples of pasteurised or heat-treated milk were also examined for the methylene blue (30 minutes) test. Of these 19 (8.4%) failed to pass this test.

Examination of Milk for the Presence of Phosphatase.—216 samples were examined during 1946 for the presence of phosphatase, and 225 in 1947. In 3 samples in 1946 the Analyst reported that the milk had not been sufficiently heat-treated. During 1947, in 2 cases the samples were reported by the Analyst to have been insufficiently heat-treated.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme.—All milk now supplied to schools under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme is milk for which a pasteuriser's licence has been granted. Careful supervision is exercised by the Sanitary Staff and frequent samples are taken for chemical examination and for examination for bacterial contamination.

The number of samples taken and the results are as follows :—

	1946	1947
1. Samples taken for chemical analysis	336	340
Number reported below standard	—	—
2. Samples examined for bacteriological cleanliness	39	37
Number reported to be unsatisfactory	10	5
3. Samples examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli	11	9
Number in which tubercle bacilli was found	—	—

The chemical analysis of the above samples is mainly carried out by means of the Gerber Test at the Department's own laboratory, and only in doubtful cases are samples examined by the Public Analyst.

Ice Cream Premises.—The following are the particulars at the end of each year of registrations under the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, of manufacturers and vendors of Ice Cream and the premises used by them :—

	1946	1947
Manufacturers and Vendors	17	11
Vendors only	110	119
Premises for manufacture and sale	17	11
Premises for sale only	111	123

During 1946, 167 visits of inspection were made to ice-cream premises, and during 1947, 340 visits were made.

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into operation on the 1st May, 1947.

The Regulations broadly require that ice-cream mixes shall be heat-treated to a temperature of not less than 150°F. for 30 minutes or alternatively of not less than 160°F. for 10 minutes and shall then be cooled to a temperature not exceeding 45°F. until the freezing process had begun. After freezing, the ice-cream must not be sold unless it has been kept at a temperature of not more than 28°F. or, if that temperature has been exceeded, unless it has again been heat-treated.

“Complete cold mixes”, as defined by the Regulations, are exempted from the heat-treatment requirements.

Only one manufacturer is at present using a cold mix.

Six premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream have been entirely reconstructed and brought up to a satisfactory standard of fitness.

All manufacturers are now either complying with all the requirements of the above Regulations, including cooling, or have given orders for the necessary equipment.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.—During 1946, 318 formal samples and 53 informal samples of various foods and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst, and 11 (3.45%) were reported to be adulterated. In 1947, 209 formal samples and 142 informal samples were taken for analysis and 16 (4.5%) reported as adulterated.

Legal proceedings were instituted during 1946 in respect of two formal samples found to be adulterated, as follows :—

Sample

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Adulteration</i>	<i>Results of legal proceedings</i>
194	Malted Milk	Labelling Offence	Retailer fined £4 with £1/1/- costs.
243	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 27.3%.	Fine of £1 with £1/1/- costs was imposed against the vendor.

In addition to the above, warnings were given by the Health Committee in respect of the following formal samples found to be adulterated :—

Sample

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity</i>
41	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6%.
107	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6% and in solids-not-fat to the extent of 3.5%.
133	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 13.3%.
186	Non-intoxicating Cocktail	Infested with moulds in active growth, unfit for human consumption.
232	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 9.0%.

During 1947, legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the following formal samples :—

Sample

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Particulars of Offence</i>	<i>Results of legal proceedings</i>
42	Parsley	Containing sand to the extent of 17.4%.	Producer fined £5, with £2/1/- costs.
120	Rum	Containing 17.4% extraneous water.	Vendor fined £5, with 15/- costs.
121	Cocktail (Non-Alcoholic)	Contravention of Article 3 of the Labelling of Food Order, 1946.	Producer fined £10, with £2/11/- costs.

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Particulars of Offence</i>	<i>Results of legal proceedings</i>
121	Cocktail (Non-Alcoholic)	Contravention of Article 4(d) of the Labelling of Food Order, 1946.	Producer fined £10.
121	Cocktail (Non-Alcoholic)	Containing an added preservative (chloroform) in contravention of Article 4 of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.	Producer fined £10.
122	Ginger Wine (Non-Alcoholic)	Contravention of Article 3 of the Labelling of Food Order, 1946.	Producer fined £10.
122	Ginger Wine (Non-Alcoholic)	Contravention of Regulation 1 of the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943 and 1945.	Producer fined £20.
122	Ginger Wine (Non-Alcoholic)	Containing an added preservative (chloroform) in contravention of Article 4 of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.	Producer fined £10.

In addition to the above, warnings were given by the Health Committee in the case of the following formal samples :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity</i>
465	Barley	Infested with mites.
498	Milk	Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 11.6%.
557	Sage, dried	Containing 14 parts per million of arsenic.
147	Fruit Cocktail	An aerated beverage devoid of fruit juice.
23	Milk	Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 10% and deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%.
144	Milk	Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 8.3%.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.
The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.—No infringements of any of these Regulations were found during either year.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.—All samples submitted to the Public Analyst under the Foods and Drugs Act are also examined for the presence of preservatives. No infringement of the Preservatives in Food Regulations was found during 1946. During 1947, however, two infringements were found; these consisted of selling a non-alcoholic Cocktail and a non-alcoholic Ginger Wine, each of which contained chloroform.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.—9 informal samples of fertilisers and feeding stuffs were taken and analysed during 1946, all of which were found to be genuine. No samples were taken during 1947.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.—At the end of 1946 there were 42 persons entered in the Local Authority's list of persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List. The number of premises concerned was 74. At the end of 1947 the number of persons was 42, and premises numbered 46.

A total of 92 visits were paid to these premises in 1946 and 70 visits in 1947. No infringements of the Act were found during either year.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.—During 1946, 82 visits were paid in connection with this Act, and during 1947, 16 visits. In neither year were any infringements of this Act found.

BAKEHOUSES.—In 1946 there were 92 bakehouses in St. Helens, with mechanical power employed in 53 of them. In 1947 the number of bakehouses was 92, with mechanical power in 65 instances.

During 1946, 507 visits of inspection were made, and 66 defects found, all of which were remedied before the end of the year.

During 1947 visits of inspection numbered 504 with 58 defects found, all of which were remedied before the end of the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS—Tuberculosis Order, 1938.—No animals from dairy herds in the Borough were slaughtered under this Order during either year.

Anthrax.— 4 cases in 1946 and 2 cases in 1947 of suspected Anthrax were reported, but in no instance was the disease confirmed.

Swine Fever.—3 cases in 1946 and 4 cases in 1947 of suspected Swine Fever were reported. In no instance was the disease confirmed.

Foot and Mouth Disease.—No cases of suspected Foot and Mouth disease were reported during either year.

Markets, Sales and Lairs Order, 1925.—There is one market, situate between 5 and 21 Parr Street, licensed for the sale of animals in St. Helens.

XIII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. — The water supply is from deep wells and boreholes in new red sandstone at Eccleston Hill, Whiston, Knowsley, Kirkby and Melling, supplemented by a supply from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main, and water from red sandstone above the coal measures at Collins Green. The water from the last-mentioned source is subjected to, in addition to chlorination, high pressure filtration before distribution.

The water from the deep wells and from Collins Green is hard, the average hardness being 22.6° and 27° respectively, and the hardness of both is reduced to approximately 10.5° by softening processes before distribution. The water from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main is soft and is blended with hard water before distribution, so that in its ultimate distribution it also approximates to 10.5°.

There were no new sources of public water supply during either year, but during 1946 mains extensions involving a total of 3661 yards were carried out for the supply of water to the new East Lancashire Road, Pendlebury Street and Ashurst Drive Housing Sites, and during 1947 mains extensions involving a total of 4,603 yards were carried out for the supply of water to the new East Lancashire Road Housing Site, Folds Lane, West Park, Olga Road, Doulton Street and Walton Road.

The quality of the water has remained satisfactory during both years, and the supply to all parts of the Borough is reasonably adequate.

Bacteriological examinations of the water were made at regular intervals at the sources of supply and at the reservoirs prior to distribution into supply, in all cases after chlorination.

Of the 254 samples taken for bacteriological examination during 1946, 226 were classified as Class 1; 18 Class 2; 7 Class 3; and 3 Class 4.

Of the 285 samples taken for bacteriological examination during 1947, 244 were classified as Class 1; 12 Class 2; 6 Class 3; and 23 Class 4.

78 samples were taken during 1946 for chemical analysis, and of these 65 were classed as satisfactory. Comments on others were briefly :—

Rivington	On four occasions there was some evidence of slight contamination possibly due to heavy rainfall. Three of these were satisfactory subject to a Class 1 bacteriological condition.
Eccleston Hill	Three samples revealed evidence of slight organic contamination. One sample showed a higher free ammonia figure than usual.
Whiston	Two samples showed a slight contamination against which chlorination should provide efficient safeguard. The water was classed as suitable for domestic use.
Sutton Road	One sample was reported to have an unusually high free ammonia content.
Kirkby	One sample was reported to have an ammonia content higher than usual.
New Reservoir	One sample showed slight contamination but was reported to be satisfactory subject to a Class 1 bacteriological condition.

77 samples were taken during 1947 for chemical analysis and of these 62 were classed as satisfactory. Comments on others were briefly :—

Brown Edge Old Reservoir	Three samples showed evidence of slight contamination, but were classed as suitable for drinking upon Bacteriological Reports which were Class 1.
Brown Edge New Reservoir	One sample showed evidence of slight contamination, but was classed as suitable for drinking upon Bacteriological Report which was Class 1.
Rivington Supply	Five samples showed evidence of organic contamination with slightly high free ammonia, but were classed as suitable for drinking upon Bacteriological Reports which were Class 1.
Eccleston Hill	Five samples were classed as suitable for drinking subject to satisfactory Bacteriological Reports. These were Class 1.
Melling	One sample showed a higher ammoniacal nitrogen content than normal and was classed as fit for drinking subject to satisfactory Bacteriological Report which was Class 1.

None of the water supplied is liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The supply is on the constant system. With only one or two exceptions, which receive their supplies from stand-pipes, water is supplied directly to all the houses in the Borough from the Corporation's water mains.

All supplies are chlorinated before distribution.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The supervision of the pollution of rivers and streams in St. Helens is now carried out by the Lancashire Rivers Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—During 1946 the sewerage system of the Borough was extended to serve portions of the East Lancashire Road Housing Site and the following other temporary housing sites :—

Pendlebury Street;
Ashurst Drive;
Carnegie Street.

During 1947 the sewerage system of the Borough was extended to service further portions of the East Lancashire Road Housing Site (Carr Mill and Moss Bank sections) and the housing site at Gartons Lane (Bentley Street section).

The existing property on the East Lancashire Road Housing Site (Carr Mill section) which previously drained to a septic tank has now been connected up to the main sewerage system.

Relief sewers have been laid in Lacey Street and at Haresfinch; both of these have been effective in eliminating flooding trouble in their respective areas.

A scheme has now been prepared for laying a 12 inch diameter sewer from the Eccleston Hill sewage works to a point in Eccleston Village near the Griffin Inn where it will discharge into the Whiston Rural District Council's sewerage system. This system is already connected to the St. Helens sewerage system which drains to the Parr Sewage Disposal Works. The scheme has been approved by the Whiston Rural District Council and was approved by the St. Helens Council on the 6th February, 1948. When this sewer is laid the present overloaded works at Eccleston Hill will be dispensed with.

No alterations or extensions have been carried out at the Sewage Disposal Works during either year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—No pail closets or privy middens were converted to the fresh water carriage system during either 1946 or 1947. It is estimated that there are still 105 pail closets and 282 privy middens serving 104 and 291 houses, respectively. There are also 43 pail closets and 4 privy middens at various schools and works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department. There are no refuse disposal works, refuse other than salvage being disposed of by tipping.

There are two refuse tips at present in use, namely, the Watery Lane Tip which receives approximately 70% of the Borough's refuse, and the Kurtz Tip which receives the remainder. The latter tip is used solely for horse-drawn vehicles.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—For the measurement of atmospheric pollution the deposit gauge situated in the yard of the School Clinic, Cloughton Street, continued in operation during both years.

During 1946, 29 and during 1947, 18 observations of smoke emission from industrial chimneys were taken. In 14 of these during 1946 and in 11 during 1947, black smoke was emitted for more than two minutes during the half-hour observations. Representations were made to the firms concerned with a view to diminution of the nuisance. There are no bye-laws in St. Helens.

FACTORIES.—In connection with the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, two defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories during 1946. In addition 30 instances of want of cleanliness and 64 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were also dealt with as a result of sanitary inspections.

A total of 374 visits of inspection were made during the year.

During 1947 three defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories. In addition 2 instances of want of cleanliness and 310 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were also dealt with as a result of sanitary inspections. In one instance the offender was warned by the Health Committee.

A total of 993 visits of inspection were made during 1947.

The following table gives particulars of the administrative action taken during 1947 under Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

TABLE 14.
PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	97	315	12	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	236	673	61	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	5	2	—
TOTAL	337	993	75	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three, or more “cases”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	8	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	301	238	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	3	—	—
TOTAL	312	241	3	7	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	SECTION 110				SECTION 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel {	Making, etc.	3	—	—	—	—
	Cleaning & Washing	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags	19	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	22	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The total number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors was 39,331 in 1946 and 39,891 in 1947. The nature and purpose of these visits is shown in Table 15—

TABLE 15.

Number and nature of inspections during 1946 and 1947.

	1946	1947
(a) Number of complaints investigated :—		
1. Housing defects	2191	1632
2. Choked and defective drains	624	292
3. Emission of smoke	28	21
4. Accumulations of Offensive matter	11	44
5. Miscellaneous	240	452
(b) Inspections re Sanitation and Food Supply :—		
Dwellinghouses inspected	3213	2555
Common Lodging-Houses	80	213
Houses-let-in-Lodgings	57	36
Common Yards, Back Roads, and Passages	307	671
Horse-manure Middensteads	26	106
Fried Fish Shops	562	571
Fishmongers' and Greengrocers' Shops	1209	1920
Butchers' Shops.....	917	976
Grocers' Shops	1374	1375
Ice-Cream Premises	167	340
Shops Act, 1934	1937	2321
Public Houses, Beer Houses, etc.	234	224
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	92	70
Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941	82	16
Factories (with mechanical power)	268	673
Factories (without mechanical power)	106	364
Bakehouses	507	504
Offensive Trades	82	95
Food Preparing Places and Storing Places	878	953
Canteens, etc.	134	103
Places of Public Entertainment	109	66
Tents, Vans and Sheds	41	35
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	492	617
Testing Drains	111	230
Ashes Receptacles	314	443
Samples of milk and other foodstuffs for chemical analysis	707	691
Samples of milk and milk products for bacteriological and biological examination	591	373
Samples of water procured for bacteriological examination	14	9
Samples of fertilizers and feeding stuffs.....	9	—
Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders	27	27
Enquiries re Brokers' Licences	49	35
Visits to work in progress	14756	13811
Lands and premises inspected for rat and mouse infestation	1976	225
Dwellinghouses and other classes of premises inspected for vermin infestation	2410	739
Pigstyes	24	72
Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1928	8	—
Samples of Rag Flock	3	—
Smoke Observations	29	25
Inspection of premises in connection with the control of civil building	2901	221
Public Conveniences	13	18
Housing Survey	—	4925
Miscellaneous visits, Interviews, etc.	2515	3134
Transport Hostels	—	3
Hairdressers	—	25
Conversions	—	3
Schools	—	8
Samples of Foodstuffs for food poisoning, etc., organisms	—	4
Food Poisoning Enquiries	—	13
Refuse Tips	—	2
Cattle Market	—	51
	39331	39891

Table 16 shows the number of defects for which Notices were served as a result of the above inspections, together with the action taken as a consequence of the Notices.

TABLE 16.
Number of defects for which notices were served.
During 1946

Subject of Notice	Pre-liminary notices	Statutory notices	Number complied with	Number outstanding at end of year	Prosecutions
Dampness arising from defective roofs, eavesgutters, rainwater pipes and pointing	3590	1561	3092	498	—
Defective and choked drains, closets, cesspools, etc.	793	141	782	11	—
Absence of proper sinks	50	19	40	10	—
Unsatisfactory house refuse accommodation	273	31	115	158	—
Unsatisfactory yard paving	50	27	42	8	—
Flooded condition of cellar or land....	1	—	1	—	—
Insufficient water supply	37	3	22	15	—
Dwellinghouses and other premises to be whitewashed	156	—	151	5	—
Filthy condition of premises	118	12	73	45	—
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter	76	19	13	63	—
Keeping of Animals, etc.	1	—	—	1	—
Other housing defects	3048	1819	2812	236	—
Miscellaneous	238	63	196	42	—
Contravention of :—					
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	14	—	10	4	1
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	6	—	6	—	—
Factories Act, 1937	160	—	94	66	—
Shops Act, 1934	23	—	16	7	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	242	—	229	13	—
Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1918	—	—	—	—	—
	8876	3695	7694	1182	1

Referred to other departments :—

Choked street gullies, etc., reported to Borough Engineer.....	6
Waste of water reported to Water Department	298
Dangerous structures reported to Borough Engineer.....	71
Escapes of coal gas reported to Gas Engineer	8
Choked or defective sewers reported to Borough Engineer	16
Unauthorised erections reported to Borough Engineer	12
Choked drains and housing defects reported to Housing Manager (Corporation Property)	78

During the year 624 complaints of choked drains were made to the Department. Of this number 363 drains were freed from obstruction by members of the staff of the Sanitary Department, thus obviating the necessity for serving notices upon the owners.

During 1947

Subject of Notice	Preliminary notices	Statutory notices	Number complied with	Number outstanding at end of year
Dampness arising from defective roofs, eavesgutters, rainwater pipes and pointing	2347	1623	2064	283
Defective and choked drains, closets, cesspools, etc.	1211	225	944	267
Absence of proper sink.....	33	14	22	11
Unsatisfactory house refuse accommodation	323	170	253	70
Unsatisfactory yard paving	30	15	21	9
Ditches require cleansing	3	—	—	3
Flooded condition of cellar	1	1	1	—
Insufficient water supply	14	2	8	6
Other premises to be whitewashed	155	—	121	34
Filthy or verminous condition of premises	106	7	68	38
Accumulations of manure and offensive matter	26	1	20	6
Keeping of Animals, etc.	5	1	2	3
Other housing defects	2245	1243	1896	349
Miscellaneous.....	512	320	425	87
Contraventions of :—				
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	25	—	25	—
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	1	—	—	1
Factories Act, 1937	312	—	241	71
Shops Act, 1934	16	—	12	4
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	213	—	212	1
Caravans	3	—	—	3
	7581	3622	6335	1246

Referred to other Departments :—

Choked or defective sewers to Borough Engineer	62
Choked or defective street gullies to Borough Engineer	21
Waste of water to Water Engineer	360
Dangerous structures to Borough Engineer	75
Unauthorised erections to Borough Engineer	13
Choked drains and housing defects to Housing Manager (Corporation property)	115

During the year 887 complaints of choked drains were made to the Department. Of this number 595 drains were freed from obstruction by members of the staff of the Sanitary Department, this obviating the necessity for serving notices upon the owners.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.—There are 4 offensive trades in the Borough, comprising 3 tripe boilers and 1 rag and bone dealer. During 1946, 82 visits and during 1947, 95 visits were paid to premises of this nature.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—So far as was known to the Department there were no tents, vans or sheds used in the Borough for human habitation during the years 1946 and 1947.

Camping Sites.—There are no sites in St. Helens used as camping sites, nor have any licences been granted by the Council authorising the use of any land or moveable dwellings for camping purposes.

Houses-let-in-Lodgings.—During 1946 and 1947 there were 5 premises known to the Department to be used as Houses-let-in-Lodgings. 57 visits in 1946 and 36 visits in 1947 were paid to these premises.

Common Lodging Houses.—The number of premises registered in 1946 and 1947 was 3. 80 visits of inspection were made in 1946 and 213 visits in 1947.

Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances.—These byelaws prove very effective for the control of pig-keeping. At the end of 1946, there were 57 persons known to be engaged in the keeping of pigs, and at the end of 1947, 55 persons.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS—Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.—126 complaints of infestation by rats or mice were received during 1946, and 158 during 1947. As in previous years it was found that the chief cause of infestation by rats was either defective drains or sewers. When these defects were made good, no further complaints were received.

Since the completion of the survey of surface infestations referred to in previous annual reports, additional visits of inspection have been made by the Rodent Operator each year for the purpose of ensuring that new infestations are dealt with as they arise. The number of inspections made for this purpose in 1946 was 1976, and in 1947, 3310.

The total number of infestations found in each year as a result of complaints or routine inspections was as follows :—

	1946	1947
Rat infestations	68	77
Mouse infestations	38	51

Most of these infestations were cleared by the end of the year.

Shops Act, 1934.—In addition to statutory duties in regard to the ventilation and temperature of shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences, the Sanitary Department in St. Helens also takes responsibility for those provisions of the Act relating to lighting, washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals.

The number of visits paid to shop premises during 1946 was 1937, and during 1947, 2321.

Places of Public Entertainment.—109 visits were paid in 1946 and 66 visits in 1947 for inspection purposes. The condition of these premises was found to be generally satisfactory.

Canal Boats.—There is only one canal within the Borough (the St. Helens Canal) and this has not been used for traffic for a number of years.

Mortuaries.—A Public Mortuary with post-mortem room is maintained behind the Town Hall, and is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. During 1946, 57 bodies were received into the mortuary and 36 post-mortem examinations were conducted.

During 1947, 21 bodies were received into the mortuary and 18 post-mortem examinations were conducted.

During 1947 extensive improvements and alterations to the mortuary were completed.

Disposal of the Dead.—There were no alterations from previous years in these arrangements, but during 1946, application was made to the Ministry for the erection of a crematorium.

Swimming Baths.—Indoor swimming baths situate in Boundary Road are maintained by the Corporation. There are two plunge baths, and the method of purification of the water is by means of continuous filtration and chlorination. A new chlorination plant was installed during 1947. Twelve samples of water from these baths were taken by the Sanitary Department for bacteriological examinations during 1946, and twelve samples during 1947. The results of the examinations showed the water to be satisfactory for bathing purposes.

Rag Flocks Acts, 1911 and 1918.—Three samples of rag flock were taken in 1946 and were reported upon satisfactorily by the Public Analyst. No samples were taken in 1947.

XIV.—HOUSING.

A statement as to the number of houses erected with and without assistance together with a summary of the work of the department in regard to Housing is given in Table 17.

Table 17
Housing.

	1946	1947
Number of new houses erected during the year:—		
(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	176*	407*
* (These numbers include 100 prefabricated bungalows in 1946 and 175 in 1947)		
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(1) By the Local Authority	144	†337
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	—	—
† (This number includes 44 houses erected outside the Borough).		
(c) Without State Assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(1) By the Local Authority	—	—
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	32	70
Number of conversions during the year :		
(1) By the Local Authority	—	2
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	—	1
1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—		
(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	3213	3361
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	17969	17172
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	—	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—	—
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—	1
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3199	3341
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—		
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	2195	1789

Table 17—*continued*

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—	1946	1947
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	—	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	817	1552
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) by owners	671	1345
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—	—

SLUM CLEARANCE.—Owing to the present economic conditions, no houses were dealt with under Slum Clearance Schemes in either 1946 or 1947.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS 1920-1939.—During 1946, 11 applications were received from tenants for sanitary certificates under these Acts. Certificates were granted in each case. In 1947, 12 applications were received and ten certificates were granted.

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS :—

During 1946, the Health Committee authorised the formation of a Municipal Disinfestation Service.

During 1946, 2,410 inspections and during 1947, 739 inspections of dwellinghouses and food premises for vermin infestation were made by Sanitary Inspectors, and the following disinfestation work was carried out :—

	1946	1947
(1) No. of privately owned dwellinghouses treated for the destruction of vermin	698	356
(2) No. of occupied Council houses treated for the destruction of vermin	31	113
(3) No. of new pre-fabricated Council houses treated for the prevention of vermin infestation	100	11
(4) No. of new permanent Council houses treated for the prevention of vermin infestation	38	20
(5) No. of food premises treated for the destruction of vermin	72	74
(6) No. of Corporation buildings, other than dwellinghouses, treated for the destruction of vermin	8	10
Total No. of premises treated	947	548

In each case the insecticide used was D.D.T.

During 1946 no dwellinghouses or household effects were subjected to fumigation by hydrocyanic gas, but in 1947, in 42 instances of re-housing by the Corporation Housing Department, furniture and household effects were disinfested by Hydrogen Cyanide to prevent vermin infestation in the new accommodation. The bedding in these instances was disinfested by steam.

